

From an old notebook . . .

H. Holmes Ellis was among the earliest archaeologists to use the experimental method, or as he said: *...to critically appraise the work which has been accomplished in the investigation of flint fracture and the specific methods utilized by the aborigines in working of stone; and to record the experimental results achieved by the Lithic Laboratory.*

The following are examples from his studies...

The Lithic Laboratory for the Eastern United States was established at the Ohio State Museum in January, 1938, for the study of lithic materials of Native Americans --- and more importantly, their economy, methods and techniques for making tools, and their utilization.

Topics:

Character of Flint
Mechanics of Flint
Percussion Flaking
Direct Rest vs. Free-Hand
Pressure Flaking
Thermal Processes.

Note: Shown below, he was the first to experiment with a hafted, hard hammerstone. None have published the technique since.

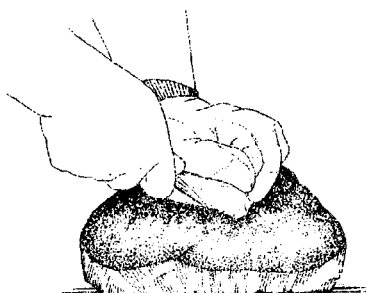


Fig. XVII. Rest pressure with unhafted antler tip.

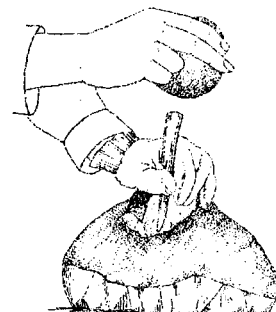


Fig. XI. Indirect rest percussion with antler tip.

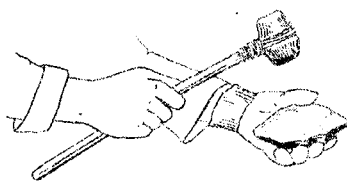


Fig. III. Direct free-hand percussion with stone hammer.

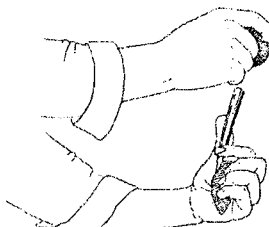


Fig. IX. Indirect free-hand percussion with non-man.

Major publication: *Flint-Working of the American Indians: An Experimental Study.* The Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio (1957).

Note: This book is a mimeographed publication and very few copies still exist.

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